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6 June 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Ecuador: The Ecuadorean Government is showing no signs of backing down on the tuna-boat controversy with the US.

Foreign Minister Peralta told the US chargé on 4 June that Ecuador would not accede to US demands for the release of the boats under any circumstances, even if it meant the cancellation of the entire US aid program.

Although he originally rejected a US offer to send a special team of diplomats to discuss the matter, it was announced on 5 June that advisers from the Interior Department and the US Navy are accompanying Ambassador Bernbaum on his return to Quito from Washington today to "lay the groundwork" for negotiations aimed at preventing future incidents. Peralta, in his talk with the chargé, however, had said he was "at a loss as to how differences could be resolved other than to accept Ecuador's position" on the issue of the 12-mile sovereignty limit.

Anti-American sentiment continues to rise. Press editorials have become increasingly strident in their attacks on the US, anti-American wall signs and placards have begun to appear, and students in Guayaquil have demonstrated in front of the US Consulate General.

In addition to the Ranger and White Star, which are under detention, 19 other US tuna boats are in Salinas harbor. Under Ecuadorean law, the two boats must by 10 June pay a \$20,600 fine for poaching or face confiscation.

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***Ceylon:** Prime Minister Bandaranaike's government announced on 5 June that it will take over entirely from Western oil companies the distribution of petroleum products on the island as of January 1964. Such action would affect those Western distribution facilities not nationalized under the partial take-over last year.

The government's sudden announcement follows a series of conferences with representatives of the Western companies during which some progress had been made toward a compromise agreement to share the market. Although it is possible that the action may be rescinded before it becomes effective in January 1964, there is no indication at this time that the government does not intend to follow through.

The announcement in any case reduces the prospect of payment of adequate compensation for facilities already nationalized, a first step toward making possible the restoration of US aid suspended in February.

Leftist elements in the government party have long advocated the elimination of Western business interests, particularly the operations of the Western oil companies. The government's precipitate action may have been prompted by apprehension that leftist members of Mrs. Bandaranaike's party might defect to the newly formed united front of leftist opposition parties.

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Iran: Further disturbances following the riots of 4 and 5 June in Tehran are likely as conservative religious elements try to organize opposition to land reform and women's suffrage, two key portions of the Shah's program. The conservatives do not appear to have much popular support in the country generally, however, and Iranian security forces, which have been prepared for trouble, should be able to bring new demonstrations under a fair degree of control. The shrine cities of Qom and Meshed will be especially likely scenes of disorder during the next two weeks.

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